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EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1860.

The Richmond Enquirer is urgent for agreeing to the proposition for a Southern Convention, or "Conference" as it calls it. We doubt the strength of some of the arguments used by the Enquirer. Mr. Barbour's resolutions would seem to be sufficient to meet the case at present. We know not what the people of Virginia may do for themselves hereafter, or require the Legislature to do hereafter, in case there be no redress of grievances, and a continuation of aggressions. Nor do we yet know, what is to be the effect of the conservative influences aroused, and at work in the Northern States, and which may effect the political overthrow of the agitators there. Is not the Enquirer in error, in supposing that the conservative men at the North, now contending for the preservation of the Union and the Constitution, and the Rights of the States, ask, or require, or expect, or desire this "Southern Convention" in order to enable them to maintain their position? Is it not probable, that they do most earnestly desire that no such Convention should be held? This is a point, we admit, to be taken into consideration—and it is therefore important that correct information with regard to it, should be obtained.

We have received a copy of the Report presented to the House of Delegates, on the 25th ult., by Mr. Barbour, of Culpeper, from the Joint Committee, in relation to the Harper's Ferry matter. Mr. Barbour was chairman of the House branch of this committee. The first part of the report is a recital of the events connected with the attack upon Harper's Ferry, and some subsequent incidents with which our readers are familiar. The second part discusses the whole subject of the aggressive policy of the Northern States in relation to the subject of slavery, and their unjustifiable course. It concludes with the resolutions which we have already published, for arming and equipping the militia of the State; for encouraging home industry, direct trade with foreign countries, and for promptly and effectually punishing all conspirators and emissaries coming into the State to disturb the public peace, by exciting insurrection and rebellion. The Report is a very able one.

In about three weeks the Whig Convention will take place in Richmond, and, we ardently hope, will be one of the largest and most respectable, in point of talent and character, that has ever been convened upon the soil of Virginia. The exigencies of the times demand it—requiring wisdom in council, and calm deliberation. Every county in the State should be represented—sending their national, conservative men.

In another column will be found a copy of the Bill which was reported from the Finance Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates, and read the first time on the 26th ult. It is one of the most important documents that has yet been issued in connection with the great question which is now agitating the country.

The Democrats of Petersburg held a meeting on Monday night. The Committee on business reported a series of resolutions, endorsing the action of Governor Wise in the Harper's Ferry affair, expressing confidence in the administration of Gov. Letcher, and speaking in terms of praise of the now closing administration of President Buchanan, all of which were passed. The following, after considerable debate, was also passed: Resolved, That while the Democracy of the City of Petersburg expect to support, with cordial zeal, the nominee of the Charleston Convention, whoever he may be, they have no hesitation in avowing as the name of their first choice, their distinguished fellow-citizen, Henry A. Wise.

The New York Express says that the sale of Helper's Book has been prohibited on the Railroad cars, on the Railroads leading out of New York—and that "its biggest sale now is in Washington City"—where it has been advertised in Congressional speeches for a month past.

A War Steamer, belonging to Victor Emmanuel, and chartered by the Spanish government, was blown up in the harbor of Malaga, on the 25th of December. The destruction was caused by the explosion of a number of grenades placed in the stern of the vessel.

A few days ago, Gen. Scott was the candidate of the New York Herald for the Presidency. It now declares that "Mr. Buchanan is the man for the hour," and can be and ought to be re-elected.

The friends of Senator Douglas affirm that his prospects for the nomination at Charleston—and for election as next President, are brightening every day.

The American College at Rome has been opened with twelve students from this country.

"A Defence of Armageddon, or Our Great Country Foretold in the Holy Scriptures," is the title of a book just published by J. W. Bull, Baltimore. It contains the substance of two discourses delivered in Washington in 1857, by F. E. Pitts, of Nashville, Tennessee. The author argues learnedly and curiously on the fulfillment of prophecy with reference to the United States. Those who have a taste for such disquisitions, will read the book with some interest. Received for sale, at the book store of George E. French, King-street.

The New York Times says, that the famous Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, with its splendid Victoria Bridge just opened, having proved a costly mistake as a mere work of Canadian necessity and improvement, those under whose management it is placed, are turning the work to a different and most unexpected account. They have seized upon the Western carrying trade, and linked Chicago and Cincinnati to Portland and Boston by the way of Canada, and in terms which almost defy competition from the trunk lines of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. They are delivering flour and grain in New England, and both domestic and foreign merchandise in Ohio and Illinois, cheaper than they can be profitably transported via Philadelphia, or New York, or Albany. Not content with this, they have entered into competition with our coasting trade from the Gulf to the East, and, using the Illinois Central, are delivering cotton from Memphis to the New England factories, cheaper and with more expedition than it can be forwarded by the Mississippi river to New Orleans, and thence by sea to New York and Boston. Nor have they been unmindful of their own direct steam communication with England from Quebec and Portland—the last-named point being converted into a mart of British-American commerce, by reason of the perpetual lease or virtual ownership by the Grand Trunk Company of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway from Portland to the Victoria Bridge. They are now using the Quebec line of screw steamers, already one of the most successful between England and this continent, for delivering produce from Cincinnati and Chicago at Liverpool in twenty days.—to which end they issue their own responsible bills of lading in the West, through to Liverpool. And it is by no means certain that in another year the route of Tennessee and North Mississippi will not be made to take the same extraordinary direction, say from the planting States to Manchester, through Canada.

The London Times, speaking of the death of Macaulay says, how much has been lost by the premature death of this gifted man, we can never know. It is as if a unique museum or a library of precious and uncopied manuscripts had been suddenly destroyed.—Macaulay has given us in his history, the narrative of the Revolution and the Reign of William III. How complete, how graphic they are, we all know; and yet there is reason to believe that the author had hardly arrived at the period which he had principally studied, and which he would have treated with the most consummate ability. If he had been spared to write the wars of Marlborough, the Accession of the House of Hanover, and the literature of Walpole, to criticize the Administration of Queen Anne's time and sketch the rise and progress of colonial America, we might have possessed pictures even more striking than those which represent the fall of James and the struggles between William and the French King. All the accumulated materials of so many years have perished, for they were preserved, as they only could be, in the brain of the historian. The loss of a Macaulay resembles in nothing the "notes" of an average writer, for it consists not in mere isolated facts, but in analogies, parallels, and inductions, which no one can develop but he who has originated them.

Recent experiments in the application of steam to carriages on common roads, have again raised the question as to the practicability of crossing our Western plains in this manner. The proprietors of certain large iron works in New York, we understand, offer to furnish steam-carriages at a moderate cost, after a pattern they have tested, and to guarantee a performance on common roads, an hour and a half, at the rate of twelve miles an hour. It is contended that these carriages, with wheels properly constructed, would be able to make an equal speed over the Plains, thus bringing San Francisco within about seven days of St. Joseph, in Missouri, and ten days of New York.

A paragraph is going the rounds to the effect that Barney Williams has been expelled from Atlanta, Ga., for expressing abolition sentiments. The individual in question is not Barney the comedian, but as such an impression seems to prevail, our old friend Barney publishes a card in the New York papers, in which he says he "has seen enough of the effects of internal dissension in his native country, not to do otherwise than deplore any interference with the reserved rights of the States, which might lead to a dissolution of the American Union."

The Detroit Free Press publishes a long letter from a correspondent who resides in Chatham, Canada West. He states that the settlement of negroes in that town commenced about twenty years ago, and now in proportion to the whole population, contains as large a number of blacks as any town in the province, and to this fact the town owes its present blighted condition. They have been a curse to the place, and a nuisance to the country generally.

At Rochester, January 30, the family of Hon. James O. Pettigill was poisoned with strychnine placed in their food. The family consisted of Mr. P., his daughter, Mrs. Marshall, and Mrs. Lewis, a nurse. The latter is dying, but the others may recover.—Suspicion rests against a servant, who has been arrested.

The Crisis in Italy.

A letter from Rome, published by the Paris Siecle, contains the following: "A fortnight ago the Pope wrote an autograph letter to the Emperor Napoleon, in which the confusion which now prevails over Europe and in Italy, is owing to hardness of heart and irreligion; that the evils of the Italian war menace the Roman Church; that the Emperor should prepare to defend the interests of Catholicism, because the Catholic world puts its trust in him who has already done so much to maintain the cause of order in Europe, and given so many proofs of his piety." Pius IX. then declares that the representative of the Church will defend its interests so long as he lives, though he is disposed to grant his people all immunities compatible with the duties of religion and the dignity of the priesthood; he concludes with giving the Emperor his apostolic benediction. A Cabinet courier has since arrived at the Vatican, bringing the Emperor's autograph answer, which has not been regarded as very satisfactory. Napoleon III. replies like a sincere Catholic, but makes no engagement as a Prince."

Mr. Douglas's PLAN OF STATE DEFENCE, is simply the clothing of the Grand Jurors of the United States Courts with power to indict conspirators in one State against the peace of another, and of the Courts of the United States to punish conspirators so indicted. The New York Times applauds this as the great practical measure of the pending Senatorial session. We quote, "We hail with cordial satisfaction the first indication of a disposition on the part of the highest legislative body in America, to recognize the serious change which recent events have brought upon the reciprocal relations of the two great sections into which the Union of these States is divided, by the force of the social institutions obtaining in each."

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

By the way of Pike's Peak we learn that there was much disorder in Camp Floyd, which Gen. Johnson was using every exertion to suppress. One soldier had been killed, and was the intention of the Express Company between Leavenworth and Pike's Peak to start a pony express at an early date, between the former place and Sacramento, fixing the time for the trips at ten days. In addition to the amount already reported as arrived from the mines, \$20,000 was said to have come through by private hands.

The overland California mail, bringing San Francisco papers of the 9th ult., and telegraphic advices of the 10th, has arrived. Gov. Weller sent his last annual message to the Legislature on the 9th. Gov. Latham, his successor, would be inaugurated the same afternoon. A Senatorial caucus was held on the 6th inst., nine ballots were had for a United States Senatorial nominee.—The last ballot stood—Weller, 42; Denver, 33; Baldwin and Washington each 9; McDowal 5. The caucus then adjourned till the 10th ult.

Messrs. Russell & Majors, Government contractors, intend starting a Courier Express between St. Joseph and Carson City, which is the Western terminus of the California telegraph, by the 3d of April. The distance is 1,600 miles, which it is proposed to travel in eight days, by horse relays every 25 miles, thus reducing communication between New York and San Francisco within ten days. The cost of dispatches to Carson City will be \$5 a-piece. It is estimated that the courier can carry 30 pounds of matter.

Dr. Joseph Alexander, professor in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J., died at that place on Saturday last. He was the son of Dr. Archibald Alexander, and grandson of Rev. James Waddell, of Virginia, known as the blind preacher in the Virginia last summer. The late deceased spoke almost all the modern languages of Europe, and as a scholar in Oriental literature had no superior in this country.

Considerable excitement prevails at Norfolk, in consequence of the escape of a slave on board the steamer Potomac. The darkey is said to have been stowed away in the hold, and is reported to have made his appearance in New York as soon as the steamer was opened. The captain of the steamer denies the whole story. He says it was got up by a rival line to damage his steamer with the Norfolk people. Notwithstanding this, the black cook of the Potomac has quit the vessel.

The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer writes that some excitement was occasioned in "society" there, by the appearance in public of the daughter of the Austrian Consul-General *and* criminole. A matinee was given in their honor by one of the diplomatic corps, and the room was crowded by persons who had forgotten how women looked who were without the great extenders.

It appears by the papers sent to the Senate concerning the San Juan affair upon the Pacific, that Gen. Scott was instructed to establish joint occupancy upon the Island between our own and the British authority. Even if the forces had come in collision, and blood had been shed, still his duty, if possible, would be to establish temporary occupancy, giving to neither party any advantage over the other.

Among the passengers on board the steamer Fulton, arrived at New York on Saturday from Liverpool, were the members of the embassy from Paraguay, consisting of Senor Berge, the special envoy, with two secretaries and an attaché. Senor B. comes to exchange ratifications of our treaty with that republic, and to settle the question of the claims of our citizens against Paraguay.

Mr. Cavery, Secretary of Legation and bearer of despatches from our Minister in Peru, has arrived and laid them before the Government. The President has them now under consideration. The course to be pursued by the administration is not known.—There is no doubt but prompt and decisive measures will be adopted.

The Boards of Trade of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore are about to urge upon the President of the United States his mediation in the existing difficulties between England and France, and China. It is very important to the interests of commerce every where, that peace should be preserved with China.

One branch of the Kentucky Legislature has passed a bill appropriating \$10,000 to complete the monument at Lexington, in honor of Henry Clay. The statue for the monument is to be inaugurated on the 12th of April, the anniversary of the birth of the deceased statesman.

The Governors of the States of the Union, including the Governor elect of Kansas, are seventeen Democrats, sixteen Republicans, and one in Maryland, American. The Democratic Governors are in fourteen slaveholding States and three free States. The Republicans are, of course, all in free States.

Paris Fashions say the ships of bonnets is at length decided. The front is long, round, advancing over the forehead, and very much thrown back at the ears. The curtain is very narrow. In general they are very much trimmed—indeed, overcharged with trimmings.

McDonald, the imperious gentleman who was unfortunate enough to kill a woman in Broadway some time since, is said to bear his imprisonment in the Tombs with commendable patience, and admits that it has greatly improved his health and looks. (?)

The special committee of the Senate to investigate the charges of newspaper patronage, was organized to-day. Subpoenas for Messrs. Wendell and Appleton have been issued, but the latter gentleman is absent in Maine.

Business is affected, in all its relations, by the non-organization of the House of Representatives. Nearly nine millions of dollars will be set apart by the passage of a deficiency appropriation bill.

The Nashville papers come to us with very enthusiastic accounts of the nomination of the Hon. John Bell, for President, by the Opposition members of the Tennessee Legislature.

The Houston, Texas, Telegraph, of the 16th ult., has an account of a great fire in that city, by which Whitnash's cotton press, 2,000 bales of cotton, 150 hds. of sugar, were burnt.

The Salt Lake Valley Tan says, of over two hundred murders committed in that Territory within the past three years, not a single offender has been convicted or punished.

The winter in Salt Lake Valley is represented as having been very severe, and has doubtless been to some extent fatal to the stock wintered there.

Col. Ely Moore, Registrar of the Land Office at Leocompton, Kansas, died on the 26th ult.

One of the novelties of the season is the introduction of a Paris invention designed for the use of smokers. This is a small apparatus for the manufacture of paper cigarettes, by means of which a smoker may make his own cigars of such tobacco as he chooses. It consists of a small wooden mould, within which is placed a thin paper tube, which is quickly rammed full of tobacco by means of a little funnel and rammer inserted at the large end. The cigar is then pushed out complete and ready for smoking.

Mayor Swann, of Baltimore, has returned to the City Council without his approval, the new police ordinance. He refuses to sign the ordinance on two grounds; first, the inexpediency of any action by the Council at this time on the subject, and secondly, because of the total illegality of the mode which the ordinance provides for the appointment of the Police Commissioners and the police, by which the Mayor would be deprived of powers now conferred upon him by the law of the State.

Last winter the Michigan Legislature enacted a law which, in fact, really abolished the grand jury system, having made it optional either to indict upon information, or to empanel a jury, and the former is receiving the decided preference. Already Vermont has followed in her footsteps, and now the proper committee of the Wisconsin Senate has been instructed, by a unanimous vote, to bring in a similar bill, which will without doubt pass into a law.

A story of good luck is being circulated in Danbury, Conn. A man near Fairfield, named Stevens, it is said, lately bid off at auction sale, for a trifling sum, a package of old papers belonging to his father's estate, among which was found a deed for a soldier's land warrant. Rumor says that the location is where the village of Batesville, Arkansas, is now built, and that he sold his claim to a gentleman of that State for \$48,000.

One of the greatest feats of manual labor ever achieved within our knowledge, says the Reading (Penn.) Gazette, was performed on Friday by Mr. Thomas Runt, a blacksmith of this city. During the usual working hours, that is, from seven A. M. to 12 M., and from one to a quarter to six P. M.—nine and three fourths—he forged two hundred and twenty-five horse shoes. Of this number twenty-seven were turned out in the first hour.

A report was circulated in the religious and secular press, a few weeks ago, that the Hon. Edward Stanley, of California, formerly a Congress from North Carolina, designed taking holy orders in the Episcopal Church. The report is without foundation. Mr. S. contemplated nothing of the kind.—He has recently returned to California, to devote himself to professional and agricultural pursuits.

A correspondent of the Alta California says—"I have good authority for stating that General Harney has solicited, and will be appointed, Governor of Utah, to take the place of the present civil and military officer. This will be the first measure of the present administration which will receive the approbation of everybody but Mormons."

The Kent, Md., News, records several more incendiary fires in that county.

Letter from Richmond.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. Richmond, Jan. 30.—Mr. Barbour, of Culpeper, stated to-day, that he was happy to inform the House that the unpleasant differences between the Speaker and Mr. Seddon, of Stafford, had been amicably settled. The resolutions of Mr. Barbour, as well as all others on the subject of the South Carolina resolutions, therefore go to the Joint Committee of eighteen; and, I presume, the resolutions offered by Mr. Barbour will be adopted, or some of a similar character. It is understood Mr. Meminger is to leave city, on Thursday, for home. A power recently given, and used for the purpose, for their selfish and unwholesome purposes, and the conservative men of the North must make the same demand upon the politicians of their section of the country. The wild fanaticism of madmen who preach in their churches—and only preach—can do us no harm.

Senator Mason has recently, as one of the representatives of that party, for himself and those whom he represents upon the floor of the Senate, in his official character, made a most important and fatal admission to the damages allowed for fencing, until the fence be put up. Also, defining the law as regards the liability of Railroad Companies in respect to the cattle killing business.

The Committee on Claims, also reported a bill for the relief of Louise Hunter, of Alexandria, on account of taxes improperly paid.

Mr. Caperton, of Monroe, advocated the Covington and Ohio Railroad bill to-day, and after 3 o'clock, on motion, the further consideration of the subject was postponed till to-morrow, when he will conclude: after which the vote will be taken.

A bill to pay the interest on the city of Wheeling bonds, passed to-day.

"A LOOKER ON."

Later from Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 30.—The sloop-of-war Brooklyn, from Vera Cruz on the 24th, touched at the mouth of the river yesterday, brought Pensacola coal and provisions. Mr. McLane came a passenger in the Brooklyn and took passage to this city on the Moses Taylor. He remains here a week, and will then return on the Brooklyn to Vera Cruz. He has important despatches for the Government, and will await telegraphic instructions from Washington.

The city of Vera Cruz was quiet. A detachment of marines had been stationed at Tampico and Minatitlan for the protection of American citizens, in consequence of Miramon's threatened expeditions to the west.

The Saratoga was at Vera Cruz and the Savannah was daily expected there.

Dates from the city of Mexico on the 19th state that Miramon was preparing an expedition against Gen. Canavial in Tlaxcala.—The clergy, however, refuse to advance Miramon further funds for the Vera Cruz expedition, believing it to a rise to raise money.—Miramon, however, proposed starting on the 25th.

In a proclamation, Miramon again protests against Mr. McLane's treaty.

The British Minister has presented his ultimatum, demanding indemnities to British citizens.

The Liberales have retaken all the ports on the Pacific captured by Miramon.

Affairs at Brownsville.

At Brownsville, as all along the border, affairs are still in the most unsettled and uncertain state, though no recent engagements have taken place. Cortinas was himself, with some three hundred followers, at last accounts, about ten miles above Matamoros, on the Mexican side, engaged in running off stock from the ranches on the opposite, or American side. This was done by select parties, who were continually on the look-out for their opportunities.

The Major in command of the American troops has called upon all who have met with losses during the war, or in any way sustained damages from the guerrillas, to present their claims to him within a stated period.

John M. Botts's Letter.—[AN EXTRACT.]

Our friends must be pleased to see the efforts to induce the South to go to work and manufacture for itself. It has too long depended for almost every household comfort and convenience on the labor of others, from a corn broom, and a wooden bucket, to the richest and most costly article of daily necessity in our families. It is a policy that for five and twenty years, we have never ceased to urge upon them—encouragement to home enterprise, and home industry, which has always been met with the cry "free trade," and "buy where you can buy the cheapest." My only regret is, that the effort does not arise from a sound conviction of its eminent propriety, which would make it a permanent policy, rather than from a spirit of hostility and retaliation, which will, I fear, render it temporary, unavailing, and if it is true policy of the South, (as all seem now willing to admit) to encourage and protect the labor and enterprise of our people, in preference to that of sister States, how vastly more important is it that the nation should adopt the same policy and protect the industry, and the energies of the people, rather than that of foreign governments? or will those who urge the necessity of rendering the South independent of the North, contend for the absurdity, that it is desirable or expedient or wise, that both North and South shall continue their dependence on the people, or the labor of Europe? It appears to me, that the "Southern Rights Associations" of the South, composed almost exclusively of those who have been most clamorous of "free trade, and buy where you can buy cheapest," have rendered the whole question, and forever closed their lips against the protection; provided they are actuated by any consistency of principle, or provided they profess to consult the interests of the whole, as they do that of a section, or unless they contend that the Constitution was made for a section and not for the whole.

And now, the main and important question arises, is there no basis for the permanent adjustment of this agonizing question. To my mind it appears there is.

We must go back to the original purposes of the Constitution, and to the evident design of the great framers of that sacred instrument. It must be understood between the North and the South, that we will let each other alone—that they shall attend to their business, and we will attend to ours—that they are in no manner responsible for the existence of slavery in the South, and have no right to meddle with it, in any manner, form or shape, except so far as the duty devolves upon them, to see that there is no interruption to the execution of the law for the surrender of runaway slaves; if there are any obnoxious features of that law, of which they may justly complain, let them be so modified as will not interfere with a proper and fair execution of its legitimate objects.

There are national and conservative men enough in the North to guarantee all this, if they will exercise their energies for its accomplishment.

On the other hand, we must be content to live as our fathers lived for two hundred years prior to 1854, satisfied with the institution secured to us where it exists by law and is recognized by the Constitution; and we must resist all efforts of extreme men (upon whom the question of slavery has ostensibly operated like the nightmare, disturbing their thoughts by day and their dreams by night) to coerce the institution of slavery into territory now free, against the will of the people inhabiting the territory, either by national legislation or by force of arms. The power is not given, and was not intended to be given, by those who framed our government, or they would not themselves have imposed a positive prohibition on its introduction into all the territory then subject to their jurisdiction and control. Especially should we, the minority in the south, who have been crushed to the earth by the iron heel of Democracy, be reconciled to this, when we have daily evidence presented to our view that the sole object of these ultra gentlemen is to strengthen their own hands, irrespective of the true interests or wishes of those who own slaves, that they may continue to enjoy at our expense, money, place and power. We must insist and demand that the Democracy shall no longer use this question for their selfish and unwholesome purposes, and the conservative men of the North must make the same demand upon the politicians of their section of the country. The wild fanaticism of madmen who preach in their churches—and only preach—can do us no harm.

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A BILL making regulations concerning special Licenses. Reported by the Finance Committee, Jan. 26, 1860.—Read first, to be read second time in the Virginia House of Delegates.

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly, that no person who has obtained a license, shall receive, sell or offer to sell at his store or place of business, or purchase or cause to be purchased, within or without the limits of this state, any goods, wares or merchandise coming within any of the following classes or descriptions,—leather, boots and shoes and other manufactures of leather (in whole or in part), ready made clothing, furniture (or parts thereof), carriages or other wheeled vehicles (or parts thereof), hats and caps, cotton manufactures and mixtures thereof, woolen manufactures and mixtures thereof, candles and soap, brasses and iron castings, wooden, tin, iron, brass and copper ware, scythes, axes, shovels, ploughs and agricultural implements, coal oil, guano and other fertilizers, clocks, writing, wrapping and printing paper, glass and glassware, lumber (except for furniture), pig and bar iron and nails, lumber, hay, lime, salt, brooms and broom corn,—without having first obtained a special license to buy and sell such goods, wares and merchandise. But this prohibition shall not apply to such goods, wares and merchandise as may have been purchased by the merchant offering to sell them before the passage of this act, or to such goods, wares and merchandise as may be grown, produced or manufactured in this state by the seller, or to any hay, lime, lumber, bar and pig iron, brooms and broom corn, which may be purchased before the last day of January 1861. Any person who shall violate this section, shall pay a fine for each offence, not less than twenty nor more than five hundred dollars.

2. If any person shall desire to obtain a license to buy and sell any goods, wares or merchandise coming within any of the classes or descriptions designated in the first section, he shall apply to the commissioner of the revenue. If the commissioner shall be of opinion that such applicant is a fit and proper person to be so licensed, or if such applicant shall produce to the commissioner a certificate of the court of the county or corporation in which application is made, that such applicant is a fit and proper person to be so licensed, the said commissioner shall grant to such applicant a license to buy and sell such goods, wares and merchandise at the store or place therein designated.

Before granting such license, the commissioner of the revenue may require the applicant to file with the clerk of the court of the county or corporation, a bond, with security to be approved by such clerk, in a penalty of five hundred dollars, payable to the commonwealth, conditioned for a compliance with the revenue laws of the State, and for the payment of all such taxes as may be imposed by law on such license. After such license has been granted, the court of the county or corporation may make an order requiring the party so licensed to file with the clerk of such court a bond, with security, to be approved by such clerk, in such penalty as such court may fix, payable to the commonwealth, and conditioned for a compliance with the revenue laws of the state, and for the payment of such taxes as may be imposed by law on such license. If the party so licensed shall fail, for ten days after being served with a copy of such order, to comply with the said order, his license shall be null and void.

3. Every person obtaining a license under the preceding section shall, on each first day of January and first day of July, deliver to the commissioner of the revenue a statement in writing, on oath, showing the gross amount of the sales of such goods, wares and merchandise made by him within the six months next preceding; and shall also answer on oath such interrogatories as the commissioner of the revenue may propound to him; under the direction of the auditor of public accounts. The commissioner, on the 1st day of January and July, in each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, shall ascertain the gross amount of such sales, after deducting therefrom the amount of the sales of such said articles as he shall be satisfied that such person has imported directly from foreign countries, and also of such as he shall be satisfied have been directly imported into this state from some foreign country, or grown, produced or manufactured in this or some other slaveholding state of this Union, and purchased by the seller from some person duly licensed under the laws of this state to sell the same, or from the person who manufactures the same; and also of such goods, wares and merchandise as he shall be satisfied have been sold to some merchant who has actually exported the same beyond the limits of this state, shall fix the balance of such sales as the amount of taxable sales, and shall assess the tax upon the same, and deliver a certificate thereof to the party charged with the tax. Any person dissatisfied with the amount of taxable sales of such goods, fixed by the commissioner, may within sixty days from the delivery of the certificate of tax, appeal to the court of the county or corporation, and the amount of such taxable sales shall in that case be fixed by the court. If the amount of such sales as fixed by the commissioner be increased by the court, the immediate payment of the additional tax shall be required. If such amount be diminished, the court shall order the excess of the tax to be refunded by the officer to whom it has been paid. If such officer has paid the same into the treasury, such order of the court shall entitle the person in whose favor it is made, to a warrant on the treasury for the same. For every failure to perform such duty, the commissioner shall forfeit not less than twenty nor more than five hundred dollars. Any person obtaining such license, who shall fail for ten days to deliver to the commissioner the statement herein required, and to answer such interrogatories as are herein authorized, shall forfeit, for each day such failure shall continue, twenty dollars. Every such person who shall fail to pay to the officer authorized by law to collect the tax, for ten days after a certificate of the tax assessed upon his license shall be delivered to him, the amount of tax so assessed, shall forfeit, for every day such failure shall continue, twenty dollars.

4. No person who has not obtained a license under this act, nor every failure to cause to be bought any goods, wares or merchandise falling within any of the classes or descriptions designated in the first section of this act, except from some person who has obtained such license, or who has grown, produced or manufactured such goods, wares and merchandise within this or some other slaveholding state, or from some person who has derived his title to such goods, wares or merchandise from such licensed person or manufacturer. Any person who shall violate this section, shall be fined not less than twenty nor more than two hundred dollars.

Whenever the governor of this commonwealth shall be satisfied that the laws of any of the slaveholding states of this Union have imposed upon the license to sell such goods, wares or merchandise as come within the classes and descriptions designated in the first section, a tax equal to that imposed by the laws of this commonwealth, and have made equally efficient provision for securing the actual payment of such tax for preventing the sale of such goods without license, he may publish his proclamation to that effect. Thereafter, no person shall incur any of the penalties of this act for buying or receiving goods, wares and merchandise from a licensed merchant of such state, and the sales of such goods, wares and merchandise as shall be bought from such licensed merchant, shall be entitled to the same exemption as if they had been bought from a licensed merchant of this state.

5. Whenever the governor of this commonwealth shall be satisfied that the laws of any of the slaveholding states of this Union have imposed upon the license to sell such goods, wares or merchandise as come within the classes and descriptions designated in the first section, a tax equal to that imposed by the laws of this commonwealth, and have made equally efficient provision for securing the actual payment of such tax for preventing the sale of such goods without license, he may publish his proclamation to that effect. Thereafter, no person shall incur any of the penalties of this act for buying or receiving goods, wares and merchandise from a licensed merchant of such state, and the sales of such goods, wares and merchandise as shall be bought from such licensed merchant, shall be entitled to the same exemption as if they had been bought from a licensed merchant of this state.

6. Whenever the governor of this commonwealth shall be satisfied that the laws of any of the slaveholding states of this Union have imposed upon the license to sell such goods, wares or merchandise as come within the classes and descriptions designated in the first section, a tax equal to that imposed by the laws of this commonwealth, and have made equally efficient provision for securing